

# Earth First!

## ACTION UPDATE

RESIST MUCH, OBEY LITTLE

NUMBER 8

DECEMBER 1993

20P



Against strong local resistance, the construction of the disastrous M11 linking continuing and snail's pace with serious cost to the authorities. This three and a half mile slab of tarmac will destroy 350 houses, part of Epping Forest and Hackney Marshes but has a long way to go. Since early November there has been a constant vigil and on 6th December the fence around George Green Wanstead was torn down in scenes resembling the Peasant's Revolt.

The felling of an ancient chestnut tree was delayed when a tree house was declared a legal dwelling by the High Court requiring a Compulsory Purchase Order from the DoT. Just how do you

remove a 250 year old tree? On December 7th the DoT's stance toughened and at 5.15am around 300 security and police arrived to be greeted by the same number of 'Protectors' who had been there in the pouring rain since 4am! Protectors chained themselves together - armlocked inside metal tubes facing inwards around the trunk of the Chestnut with five rings of people protecting them. People were punched in the face, kneed in the groin, pulled by the ears and pressure pointed - pensioners and children were not excluded.

Despite this extreme provocation no-one fought back, allowing the police

violence to be clearly seen on TV. This has lead to numerous claims against the police. By 8 am the chestnut tree at the centre of the struggle had a tight cordon of police around it. An hydraulic platform was moved inch by inch as people were removed from its path. The police brutality was incessant - a sobering thought for future actions.

One by one the people in the tree were removed - by sawing branches off, punching people, and generally endangering life. They were held up for a while by one person handcuffing himself to the hydraulic arm of the platform. Finally at 1.15pm in a final act of environmental terrorism the tree was ripped apart by an excavator. Tree sitters in other trees were also removed, one being dragged out by a rope tied around his feet. On Saturday 11th Dec police were again grappling with protesters who were trying to remove fences on George Green.

Despite the loss of these trees, this is only the start for the police and DoT. Three of four contracts have yet to be awarded and up to thirty houses are being squatting. Unlike some campaigns, this has had strong local support since the tree was smashed apart. George Green has already been the site for a Carol Service. However we need many more people, homes are being bulldozed right now!

If you witnessed police violence or want to get involved call the M11 campaign office now on 081 530 5709.

**ACTIONS.....ACTIONS.....ACTIONS.....ACTIONS.....ACTIONS**

**TWYFORD  
DOWN  
JAN 3rd  
See Page 2**

**Faslane  
Peace Camp  
March  
18th - 20th  
See Page 2**

**TEXAS D-I-Y  
28th Feb  
See Page 2**

**The last  
action  
update...  
see back page**

## Elfs in Holland

We've heard that during International Earth Week, fairies and elves have been earthing themselves and getting back to nature worldwide. Word has been blown through the trees that some elves and fairies gathered in Holland for a party. As if by magic, slogans appeared on the walls of the Scientific Council and strangely its doors would not open. Blond sports equipment seemed to collapse in terror when they heard the fairies rustling in the trees. As to be expected on Earth Night, those things tearing, mauling, raping and polluting the earth seemed to be frozen in their tracks. The road monster and autocars were also the subject of machiavelli as a gentle reminder to the sticky situation they are creating. The elves and fairies warned they would defend the earth in radical ways from nature destroying objects, authorities and companies. Elfs and Fairies world-wide will be showing their love for the earth on

**February 14th - the next International Earth Night!!**

### ERT...we're shut

Ever wondered who the invisible think tank is behind the EC's more horrific plans (eg. 1200km of new highways)? Look no further than the European Round Table of Industry (ERT) - a group which includes Volvo, Nestle, Fiat, Shell, BP... all your favourites. Europe's most powerful lobbying group, whose recommendations mystically metamorphose into EC law. To expose this group and to let them know we know what they are doing, over 50 activists from around Europe (inc. EFA) occupied their offices in Brussels on 10th December. EC diplomats phoning in were bewildered to be told that the ERT had been shut down and taken over by the citizens of Europe.

Recommended reading for anyone fighting road schemes are 'Missing Links and Missing Networks' by ERT available from ERT Secretariat General, 15 rue Guimard 1040 Brussels Belgium. For more info contact Kate at Oxford EFA.

### NVDA Training

15th-16th January 1994 at Leeds University Union

Facilitation, decision making, dealing with violence, legal and media training. Contact Leeds EFA asap to let them know numbers. Bring cash for food

## Asterix and the Road Monster

The government's road programme unfolds with Asterix and the Road Monster in the story of one tiny village's attempt to halt the planned M600 an 8 lane motorway which stretches from Aberdeen to Land's End and back up to Blackpool. With the words 'no compromise' the village takes on the might of the Roman army. Group 4. This book is ideal to sell at all anti-road demos. Written by West Country EFAers with the sole intention of stirring up trouble and further opposition to the road lobby. A non-profit making venture send £1 and a SAE to GAMO: c/o 151b London Rd, Camberley, Surrey GU15 9JY for copies

### NatWest Update

Since September, when NatWest's International Division was occupied, a 24 hour protest at their shiny green image. The bank has been concerned that amateur might spread and defend their attempts to con the public that it is some sort of green god. Hilary Thompson (head of their environmental unit) who spoke at the conference, has written to LAMB to try and clear the air. However, at the end of the day NatWest like all the big banks, still refuses to publish its ethical and environmental lending criteria. So why not call her and let her know your views - Tel: 071 731 1166 and fax 071 726 1163

## Lloyds and Midland Boycott

Action around the country during Freshers Week by students ensured that these two saw a real loss of accounts. (See LAMB Newsletter 13) But even better, none of these goofs have let up in the last two months. As a result, the Midland have asked to meet the campaign and discuss upcoming good news. The bank should have received the answer to this request by now another bout of actions. We want to see real movement before we engage in rounds of tea and biscuits at head office. We'll keep you posted

### NEWSFLASH!!!!

Another successful bank action in Liverpool on Dec 12th. An occupation of their main branch led to Midland finally admitting to having no environmental lending criteria and more importantly that their debt managers would meet LAMB with LAMB setting the agenda first. Direct Action works - they're on the run!

**For more details/action dates contact Paul M 061 225 7128.**



## Ethical shoplifting ta

Since the first CRISP Action at Norwich outbreak of ethical shoplift fever? This mahogany trade came to a conspicuous several broadsheets reported ethical shopping country.

Dozens of activists in Brighton, Edinburgh, Southampton entered various stores and them of some of these suspect goods in the nearest police stations - without leave. Faced with customers, the affronted to Confronted with these CRISP (Citizen's Property) Officers and their hoards and stolen from indigenous reserves in Amazonia, investigate the source of the mahogany, or a £275 solid mahogany table from Harrods. Participants in these actions continue to offences to theft. Five CRISP Officers (c on 7th November in Manchester). After it was only too familiar with robbing EFA act to steal - what a bloody joke! The Crown farce and a month later dropped the charge of Norwich CRISPers but two Stroud activists

### Harrods

Today 10th December - Britain's best kind of all shades of green type. Greenpeace mahogany is Murder". Meanwhile, inside the upholding Brazilian law, ethically shoplifted mahogany bathroom scales. In a nail-biting security guards stalked each other round attempts to remove tables were foiled, or to enter Harrods again (shame), over £1100 'lifted' and taken to the local police station promised an investigation into our claim! embarrassing for Harrods and another in Carry on liberating that illegally logged lumber may follow B&Q's example of ceasing to contracts are completed). And next time prosecuted - enjoy the irony - then nick it! FOR CRISP actions contact Norwich C National Texas Actions 28th February

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## Ethical shoplifting takes it away !

Since the first CRISP-O Action at **Norwich** (see AU 7) there has been a contagion - outbreak of ethical shop lift fever! This, the latest tactic in the fight against the illegal mahogany trade came to a conspicuous head on Saturday 11th December when several broadsheets reported ethical shoplifting activities happening around the country.

Dozens of activists in **Brighton**, **Edinburgh**, **London** (see below), **Manchester** and **Southampton** entered various stores displaying mahogany products and relieved them of some of these suspect goods - whisking them away from the shelves and to the nearest police station - without leaving a tip of course - and despite the confused look of customers. The affronted looks of staff and the toppling of mannequins. Confronted with these CRISP (Citizen's Recovery of Indigenous Peoples' Stolen Property Officers and their hounds and informed that the items were suspected stolen from indigenous reserves in Amazonia the bemused police were asked to investigate the source - or the mahogany be it a £27 toilet seat from Texas Homescapes or a £275 solid mahogany table from Harrods. Participants in these actions continue to risk arrest on charges of public order offences to theft. Five CRISP Officers (out of 25) were held for seven hours in cells on 7th November in Manchester. After the day's second action where the maniac was only too familiar with hosting EF! actions the five were charged with conspiracy to steal - what a bloody joke! The Crown Prosecution Service (bless them) saw the farce and a month later dropped the charges. Similarly a case was dropped against Norwich CRISP-Os but two **Stroud** activists are due to appear in court in January.

### Harrods

Friday 10th December - Britain's best known store is surrounded by 100+ protesters of all shades of green (yep Greenpeace and FoE were there too) shouting 'Mahogany is Murder'. Meanwhile inside the store, CRISP Officers (See EF! AU7) are upholding Brazilian law - ethically shoplifting rather tasteless items - including mahogany bathroom scales. In a nail-biting game of cat and mouse activists and security guards stalked each other round and round the furniture dept. While some attempts to remove tables were foiled and the activists served banning orders never to enter Harrods again (shame) over £1000 worth of mahogany was successfully lifted and taken to the local police station, where they declined to arrest anyone and promised an investigation into our claim that mahogany is stolen goods. All pretty embarrassing for Harrods and another nail in the mahogany trade coffin. Carry on liberating that illegally logged lumber and sooner or later the rascal retailers may follow B&Q's example of ceasing to stock mahogany (at least until existing contracts are completed). And next time you see a sign that says 'Shoplifters will be prosecuted' enjoy the irony - then nick it!

FOR CRISP actions contact Norwich CRISP-O on 0603 631007

National Texas Actions 26th February 1993 contact Mr EF! Tel: 061 248 9224

## Carmel Woods & Gw Valley

Legend has it that at the time of greatest need a bell shall ring at Owain Llawgoch (the Welsh equivalent of Arthur) will rise to save the country and people against its oppression. The time is nigh, and already the troops are gathering. The Gwenllys Valley battleground between the Greed, Mercants of Alfred McAlpine Quay Products Ltd and those who understand the value of beauty and wildlife. The area is of international importance and includes ancient woodland, an ornamental lake, caves, ancient artifacts, myths and legends. To prepare for possible direct action on the 18th of November local campaigners have gathered together in the valley to discuss NVDA in their campaign. Activists from Oxford EF! came along to give a personal view of NVDA and explain what we are now being planned. Guests then went to the MoD C

TM - Cardiff and gave workshops on tactics in their local campaigns.

**Contact:** Tim 0558 685

## Bedford Bypass Inquiry

At the public enquiry for the proposed Bedford southern Bypass, protesters argued that a bridge should be built beneath the road to allow cyclists and pedestrians to use the former Bedford railway line.

This was turned down and the bypass will go ahead without making any allowances for cyclists, pedestrians. The railway will never re-open once the bypass is complete as it would take 22m to build the bridge.

Help is urgently needed in getting

council to fund the bridge and stop road being built.

**Contact:**

D Henderson Tel: 0763 5164

## Reclaim the Land

March 18th - 20th.

In order to help themselves buildings to blow people up, the MoD has a local valley to build a road to the Faslane nuclear base. Now that construction is finished, the road is supposed to be returned to nature. Surprise! The MoD want to keep transporting their nuclear convoy. It is currently being fought, but in order to ensure Nature's victory, people are assembling there to reclaim the land and practice their skills with a pickaxe.

**Contact:** 0436 820901



## Carmel Woods & Gwenlais Valley

Legend has it that at the time of Wales greatest need a bell shall ring and Owain Llewgoch (the Welsh equivalent of Arthur) will rise to save the country and people against its oppressors. The time is nigh and already the troops are gathering. The Gwenlais Valley is a battleground between the Greed Mercants of Alfred McAlpine Quarry Products Ltd and those who understand the value of beauty and wildlife. The area is of international importance - includes ancient woodland, an ephemeral lake, caves, ancient artifacts and myths and legends. To prepare for possible direct action on the 18th & 19th of November local campaigners got together in the valley to discuss the role of NVDA in their campaign. Activists from Oxford EF! came along to give their official view of NVDA and examples actions are now being planned! Oxford activists then went to the PoE Cymru office in Cardiff and gave workshops on NVDA. People now intend to use these tactics in their local campaigns.

**Contact:** Tim 0558 685353

## Bedford Bypass Inquiry

At the public enquiry for the proposed Bedford southern bypass, protesters argued that a bridge should be built beneath the road to allow cyclists and pedestrians to use the former Bedford Sandy railway line. This was turned down and the bypass will go ahead without making any allowances for cyclists, pedestrians etc. The railway will never re-open once the bypass is complete as it would then cost £2m to build the bridge. Help is urgently needed in getting the council to fund the bridge and stop the road being built.

**Contact:**  
D Henderson Tel: 0763 51649

## Reclaim the Land

March 18th -20th.

In order to help themselves build weapons to blow people up, the MoD trashed a local valley to build a road to the Haslane nuclear base. Now that the construction is finished, the road was supposed to be returned to nature. Surprise! The MoD want to keep it for transporting their nuclear convoys. This is currently being fought, but in order to ensure Nature's victory, people will be assembling there to reclaim the land and practice their skills with a pick axe.

**Contact:** 0436 820901

## Tales of Twyford

On Sun 28th Nov - the first major示威 since Yellow Wednesday (the day Group 4 and police moved in on the Down) - a play, poetry reading and slides told the tale of Twyford and the Dongas people then partied on St Catherines Hill. Early on Monday morning the spirit and the magic of the dragon reawoke as 150-200 protesters invaded the site. This caused havoc and stopped the road-building machines as they made their way up along the cutting. The police presence was minimal and the action finished rather ironically with Group 4 on a digger and protesters forming a ring around it!

The road monsters hope to open one of the carriageways by May 1st and have started laying aggregate and tarmac on slip roads.

**Mass Demo Jan 3rd -**  
**Contact Road Alert on: 0703 237 809**  
We've heard that pick axes are next year's fashion item.

## Rights not Charity

Manchester & Leeds EF!ers joined forces with Indergirls Ind Power and the disabled branch of Direct Action Network (DAN). DAN's comment Children In Need hides things such as cutbacks in the standard of living, a second class education and access to public transport and buildings. 'Behind smiles and ink' Underground Power asserts that: The issues of young peoples rights are brushed under the carpet by charity stunts like Children In Need. We should be concentrating on the real issues such as institutionalised oppression of young people in schools. 60 people stormed the Playhouse Theatre chanting Rights not Charity consequently the Leeds broadcast was postponed.

**Contact:** Underground Power  
061 248 9224

## British Aerospace

BAe make military aircraft and sold 24 Hawk aircraft to Indonesia who invaded East Timor nearly 20 years ago. In this short time they have murdered a third of the population of East Timor. It is believed that BAe are now planning to sell 144 more Hawks to Indonesia. Such a deal may spell the end for these Timorese people and must be stopped. People are planning a day of NVDA, vigils and leafleting at a northwest BAe factory in the early spring. There will be a training/planning day for this action on Sat 15th Jan 10am at Longsight library in Manchester.

**Contact:** Tricia 061 881 7460 or

Chris Cole 071 275 9150

## kes it away !

(ch/see AD 7) There has been a contagious protest tactic in the fight against the illegal clearances on Saturday 11th December when clearing activities happened around the

High, London (see below), Manchester and

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# EF! Contacts

These addresses have been re-complied by Manchester EF!ers. Changes are in bold. If you know of any corrections, want to change your address, or be included, please contact us by post, phone or fax!

## Area EF!

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Prem Park  
London N12 9UE

Bath EF!  
9 Hardens Close  
Chippingham  
Wiltshire SN15 5AA  
0294 650 078

Belfast EF!  
PO Box 148  
Belfast

EF! Birmingham  
PO Box 8416  
Moseley  
Birmingham B13 8QP  
021 441 2047

Blackpool Vale EF!  
Agriculture House  
Fulwood Road  
Preston PR1 2AB  
01253 447006

## Local Groups

Bristol EF!  
5 Cliff Court  
Camden  
London  
NW1 9AP

Camelot EF!  
c/o 10 Nelson Street,  
Winchester  
Hampshire SO23 6QF

Dart Valley EF!  
c/o Swan  
PO Box 11  
Buckfastleigh  
Devon

Derbyshire EF!  
25 Lonsdale House  
Dorchester DT2 6DT

East Anglia EF!  
100 Station Road  
Cambridge CB4 4JG  
01223 352006

Edinburgh EF!  
100 George IV Bridge  
Edinburgh EH1 1JL  
0131 556 2200

Glasgow EF!  
100 Buchanan Street  
Glasgow G1 1PT  
0141 552 5144

London EF!  
29 Chancery St  
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Midlands EF!  
100 Station Road  
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0121 552 5149

North East EF!  
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0191 265 2803

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0115 947 4619

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0117 920 4747

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NW1 9AP

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PO Box 370A  
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KT6 4YN

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Liverpool EF!  
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051 727 4768

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Po Box 79  
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0404 815155

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Fax 0805 201 703

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Alve Mill, EX2 6XU  
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Reading EF!  
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30 Silver St  
Reading RG1 2ST

Roadie Alert  
0703 237899

Robertson EF!  
c/o 93 Hollybush St  
Nottingham NG1 1PF

Sarum EF!  
9 Metro View,  
Amesbury  
Nr Salisbury  
Wiltshire

Sedgemoor EF!  
8 Taplow Rd  
Highbridge  
Somerset TA2 4JN

Sheffield EF!  
100 Green Man Inn  
Students' Union  
University of Sheffield  
Westbank Park  
Sheffield S10 2AT

South Devon EF!  
c/o Prior House  
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South Yorkshire EF!  
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Gloucestershire  
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Tower Valley  
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Dale End Ln  
Plymouth  
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01752 210000

Wales EF!  
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01653 620 500

Worcestershire EF!  
100 Station Road  
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WR1 1JL  
01905 750 000

**This could be the last Action Update** It is published by volunteers and quite simply Manchester Earth First! has no more money to do the Action Update. Everyone agreed it is important (how can we go forward if we don't know where we are?) But it costs roughly £200 for printing and postage. Individuals seem to be able to come up with the dosh, but if EF! groups don't send us money for the copies we're sending out now, there is no way we can do another one. This is serious!!! If each group gets \$10 off 10 people, but a liver from each group, and we'll be sorted for the next issue.

For fuck sake the planet is in trouble!!!!

Also, (most) people seem to be unable to get a listing to find after groups to find out what's going on. You should be telling us when things happen. Let's learn from each other and less depend on the bloody media institutions. Aside from this, we will you all love, strength and solidarity and hope for a revolution soon.

## Disclaimer

This is a compilation of actions we have been sent. It includes its for entertainment purposes only. Manchester EF! Group neither condones nor endorses anything in this publication.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

From Manchester EF! Dept 29, 1 Newton St, Didsbury, Manchester M13 1HA

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